

Foreign Service Institute, Near East Area Course, 1952

1. Announcement of Course

The Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State has decided to offer a five-month course in the Near Eastern area as part of its program of language-and-area training. This course, scheduled for October 1952 through February 1953, is designed primarily for Foreign Service Officers who have volunteered for Arabic, Persian, and Turkish language-and-area studies, and will represent a partial continuation of their intensive language study. The course will, however, be open to other State Department personnel as well as to personnel of other departments or agencies of the government.

The course will be half-time, i.e., three hours every work day afternoon, of which two hours will be devoted to presentation of material by a speaker and, after a break, a one-hour discussion by the group in which the attempt will be made to integrate the various sessions and evaluate the varying points of view. The last month of the course will consist chiefly of the presentation and discussion of problem papers and research papers by members of the group. The Foreign Service Officers in the course will be carrying on their language study in the mornings; the other trainees, it is assumed, will remain attached to their own department or agency during the morning hours, reporting to the Foreign Service Institute for the area course in the afternoon.

A description of the course is attached to the present memorandum, and the Foreign Service Institute will welcome expressions of opinion on it. The overall pattern is set, but the exact list of speakers and topics is not definite, and it will be possible to add special features or emphasize certain aspects to gear the course more specifically to the needs of the various special groups of students. It may also be possible to rearrange the scheduling.

The instructional staff of the course will have as its core permanent staff members of the Foreign Service Institute, but it is hoped that the staff will be augmented from time to time by outside lecturers and discussants drawn from universities and various sectors of the government. Informal conversations with most of the men who might be called upon to give their services in this connection have met with willingness and often considerable enthusiasm.

2. Announcement of meeting

A meeting will be held Tuesday morning at 9:30 in the Director's office at the Foreign Service Institute for the purpose of discussing problems relating to this course. Interested divisions in departments such as State, Treasury, Defense, Commerce, Agriculture and other interested agencies are invited to send representatives to this meeting. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- (1) Statement by the Foreign Service Institute of background and purposes of the course
- (2) Discussion of the content of the course
- (3) Discussion of the scheduling of the course
- (4) Number and level of students expected from each agency

Any inquiries or comments about the meeting or the course itself may be addressed to Dr. Charles A. Ferguson, Foreign Service Institute, Room 706, State Annex 8, telephone REpublic 5800 (Code 191), extension 5712.

3. Description of Course

1st week

1. Political significance of NE
2. Military significance of NE
3. Geography of NE
4. Peoples of NE
5. Languages of NE

2nd week

- 1-2 Ancient Near East
- 3-4 The Spread of Islam
- 5 The Turkish and Persian Empires

3rd week

- 1 The Ottoman Empire
- 2 European penetration to 1914
- 3-5 World War I and the emergence of the modern states

4th week

- 1 The Mandate Period (1920-1940)
- 2 World War II and the Arab League
- 3-6 Contemporary Developments

5th week

- 1-5 Culture patterns and social structure:  
The tribe

6th week

- 1 The village: physical structure
- 2 The village: contemporary technology
- 3 The village: village economy
- 4 The village: life cycle
- 5 The village: annual cycle

7th week

- 1 The village: family - structure and functions
- 2 The village: religious institutions
- 3 The city: political capital and cultural center
- 4 The city: economy - manufacture, trade, finance
- 5 The city: social classes

8th week

- 1 The city: national functions
- 2 The city: international functions
- 3-5 Current trends in Islam

9th week

- 1-4 Current trends in Islam
  - 5 Near Eastern law: Islamic law
- 10th week - 16th week: Current political and economic problems in the Near East

10th week

- 1 Near Eastern law: to end of World War I
- 2 Near Eastern law: contemporary problems
- 3 Egypt, political
- 4 Egypt, economic
- 5 Syria, political

11th week

- 1 Syria, economic
- 2 Iraq, political
- 3 Iraq, economic  
Negotiating problems
- 4 Lebanon, political  
Lebanon, economic
- 5 Jordan, political  
Jordan, economic

12th week

- 1      Arabia, Yemen, Political
- 2      Arabia, Yemen, economic
- 3      Constitutional and legal systems, Arab States
- 4      Financial systems, Arab States
- 5      Israel, political

13th week

- 1      Israeli, economic
- 2      Constitutional and legal systems, Israel
- 3      Financial system, Israel
- 4      Iran, political
- 5      Iran, economic

14th week

- 1      Turkey, political
- 2      Turkey, economic
- 3      Financial systems, Turkey and Iran
- 4      Constitutional and legal systems, Iran and Turkey
- 5      Petroleum in NE

15th week

- 1      Transportation in NE
- 2      Labor in NE
- 3      Land Tenure Problem
- 4      Tariff and Customs policies
- 5      Trade patterns

16th week

- 1-5     IIA program in NE  
         Point IV program in NE

Fifth month: completion and discussion of papers.

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